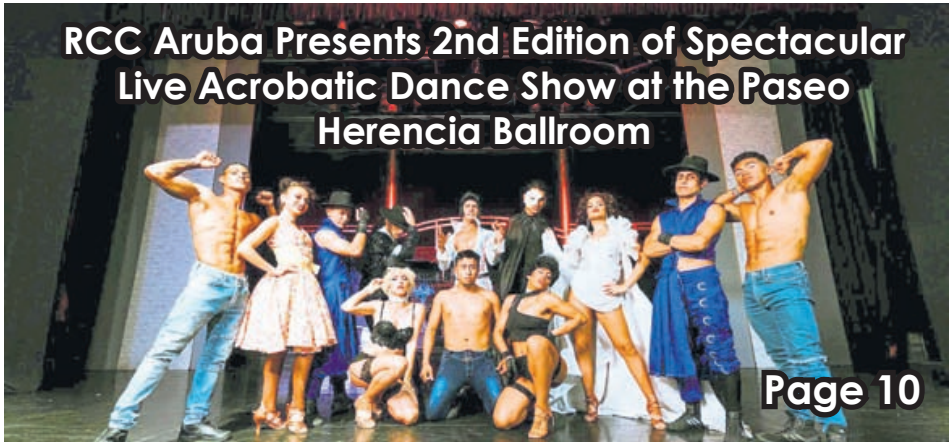




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Beauty and the Beach

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TSA is testing facial recognition at more airports, raising privacy concerns

By REBECCA SANTANA and RICK GENTILO  
Associated Press  
BALTIMORE (AP) — A passenger walks up to an airport security checkpoint, slips an ID card into a slot and looks into a camera atop a small screen. The screen flashes “Photo Complete” and the person walks through — all without having to hand over their identification to the TSA officer sitting behind the screen.

It's all part of a pilot project by the Transportation Security Administration to assess the use of facial recognition technology at a number of airports across the country. “What we are trying to do with this is aid the officers to actually determine that you are who you say who you are,” said Jason Lim, identity management capabilities manager, during a demonstration of the technology to reporters at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.



Management Capabilities Manager Jason Lim demonstrates new facial recognition technology at a Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport security checkpoint, Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Glen Burnie, Md.

Associated Press

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# TSA is testing facial recognition at more airports, raising privacy concerns

Continued from Front

The effort comes at a time when the use of various forms of technology to enhance security and streamline procedures is only increasing.

TSA says the pilot is voluntary and accurate, but critics have raised concerns about questions of bias in facial recognition technology and possible repercussions for passengers who want to opt out.

The technology is currently in 16 airports. In addition to Baltimore, it's being used at Reagan National near Washington, D.C., airports in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Orlando, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Jose, and Gulfport-Biloxi and Jackson in Mississippi. However, it's not at every TSA checkpoint so not every traveler going through those airports would necessarily experience it.

Travelers put their driver's license into a slot that reads the card or place their passport photo against a card reader. Then they look at a camera on a screen about the size of an iPad, which captures their image and compares it to their ID. The technology is both checking to make sure the people at the airport match the ID they present and that the identification is in fact real. A TSA officer is still there and signs off on the screening.

A small sign alerts travelers that their photo will be taken as part of the pilot and that they can opt out if they'd like. It also includes a QR code for them to get more information.

Since it's come out the pilot has come under scrutiny by some elected officials and privacy advocates. In a February letter to TSA, five senators — four Democrats and an Independent who is part of the Democratic caucus — demanded the agency stop the program, saying: "Increasing biometric surveillance of Americans by the government represents a risk to civil liberties and privacy rights."



**Transportation Security Administration's Identity Management Capabilities Manager Jason Lim discusses TSA's new facial recognition technology during an interview with The Associated Press at a Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport security checkpoint, Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Glen Burnie, Md.**

Associated Press

As various forms of technology that use biometric information like face IDs, retina scans or fingerprint matches have become more pervasive in both the private sector and the federal government, it's raised concerns among privacy advocates about how this data is collected, who has access to it and what happens if it gets hacked.

Meg Foster, a justice fellow at Georgetown University's Center on Privacy and Technology, said there are concerns about bias within the algorithms of various facial recognition technologies. Some have a harder time recognizing faces of minorities, for example. And there's the concern of outside hackers figuring out ways to hack into government systems for nefarious

aims.

With regard to the TSA pilot, Foster said she has concerns that while the agency says it's not currently storing the biometric data it collects, what if that changes in the future?

And while people are allowed to opt out, she said it's not fair to put the onus on harried passengers who might be worried about missing their flight if they do. "They might be concerned that if they object to face recognition, that they're going to be under further suspicion," Foster said.

Jeramie Scott, with the Electronic Privacy Information Center, said that while it's voluntary now it might not be for long.

He noted that David Pekoske, who heads TSA, said during a talk in April that

eventually the use of biometrics would be required because they're more effective and efficient, although he gave no timeline.

Scott said he'd prefer TSA not use the technology at all. At the least, he'd like to see an outside audit to verify that the technology isn't disproportionately affecting certain groups and that the images are deleted immediately.

TSA says the goal of the pilot is to improve the accuracy of the identity verification without slowing down the speed at which passengers pass through the checkpoints — a key issue for an agency that sees 2.4 million passengers daily. The agency said early results are positive and have shown no discernable dif-

ference in the algorithm's ability to recognize passengers based on things like age, gender, race and ethnicity.

Lim said the images aren't being compiled into a database, and that photos and IDs are deleted. Since this is an assessment, in limited circumstances some data is collected and shared with the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate. TSA says that data is deleted after 24 months.

Lim said the camera only turns on when a person puts in their ID card — so it's not randomly gathering images of people at the airport. That also gives passengers control over whether they want to use it, he said. And he said that research has shown that while some algorithms do perform worse with certain demographics, it also shows that higher-quality algorithms, like the one the agency uses, are much more accurate. He said using the best available cameras also is a factor.

"We take these privacy concerns and civil rights concerns very seriously, because we touch so many people every day," he said. Retired TSA official Keith Jeffries said the pandemic greatly accelerated the rollout of various types of this "touchless" technology, whereby a passenger isn't handing over a document to an agent. And he envisioned a "checkpoint of the future" where a passenger's face can be used to check their bags, go through the security checkpoints and board the plane — all with little to no need to pull out a boarding card or ID documents.

He acknowledged the privacy concerns and lack of trust many people have when it comes to giving biometric data to the federal government, but said in many ways the use of biometrics is already deeply embedded in society through the use of privately owned technology.

"Technology is here to stay," he said. □



# Prosecutor ends probe of FBI's Trump-Russia investigation

By ERIC TUCKER and  
LINDSAY WHITEHURST  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A special prosecutor has ended his four-year investigation into possible FBI misconduct in its probe of ties between Russia and Donald Trump's 2016 campaign with withering criticism of the bureau but a meager court record that fell far short of the former president's prediction he would uncover the "crime of the century."

The report Monday from special counsel John Durham represents the long-awaited culmination of an investigation that Trump and allies had claimed would expose massive wrongdoing by law enforcement and intelligence officials. Instead, Durham's investigation delivered underwhelming results, with prosecutors securing a guilty plea from a little-known FBI employee but losing the only two criminal cases they took to trial.

The roughly 300-page report catalogs what Durham says were a series of missteps by the FBI and Justice Department as investigators undertook a politically explosive probe in the heat of the 2016 election into whether the Trump campaign was colluding with Russia to tip the outcome. It criticized the FBI for opening



Special counsel John Durham, the prosecutor appointed to investigate potential government wrongdoing in the early days of the Trump-Russia probe, leaves federal court in Washington, May 16, 2022.

Associated Press

a full-fledged investigation based on "raw, unanalyzed and uncorroborated intelligence," saying the speed at which it did so was a departure from the norm. And it said investigators repeatedly relied on "confirmation bias," ignoring or rationalizing away evidence that undercut their premise of a Trump-Russia conspiracy as they pushed the probe forward.

"Again, the FBI's failure to critically analyze information that ran counter to the narrative of a Trump/Russia collusive relationship exhib-

ited throughout Crossfire Hurricane is extremely troublesome," the report said. "Crossfire Hurricane" was the FBI code name for its investigation.

The impact of Durham's report, though harshly critical of the FBI, is likely blunted by Durham's spotty prosecution record and by the fact that many of the seven-year-old episodes it cites were already examined in depth by the Justice Department's inspector general.

The FBI has also long since announced dozens of cor-

rective actions. Still, Durham's findings are likely to amplify scrutiny of the FBI at a time when Trump is again seeking the White House as well as offer fresh fodder for congressional Republicans who have launched their own investigation into the purported "weaponization" of the FBI and Justice Department.

The FBI released a letter to Durham outlining changes it has made, including steps to ensure the accuracy of secretive surveillance applications to eavesdrop on suspected terrorists and

spies. It also stressed that the report focused on prior leadership.

"Had those reforms been in place in 2016, the missteps identified in the report could have been prevented. This report reinforces the importance of ensuring the FBI continues to do its work with the rigor, objectivity, and professionalism the American people deserve and rightly expect," the FBI said in a statement. Durham, the former U.S. Attorney in Connecticut, was appointed in 2019 by Trump's attorney general, William Barr, soon after special counsel Robert Mueller had completed his investigation into whether the 2016 Trump campaign had colluded with Russia to move the outcome of the election in his favor.

The Mueller investigation resulted in roughly three dozen criminal charges, including convictions of a half-dozen Trump associates, and concluded that Russia intervened on the Trump campaign's behalf and that the campaign welcomed the help.

But Mueller's team did not find that they actually conspired to sway the election, creating an opening for critics of the probe — including Barr himself — to complain that it had been launched without a proper basis. □

## Former Detroit lawmaker joins race for Michigan seat in US Senate



Michigan state Rep. Leslie Love, D-Detroit, speaks at the state Capitol in Lansing, Mich., July 12, 2017.

Associated Press

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI  
Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Former state Rep. Leslie Love,

a Democrat who represented Detroit for six years in the Michigan Legislature, announced Monday

that she is running for the state's open U.S. Senate seat in 2024. Love served in the Michigan House from 2015 to 2020, when she retired due to term limits. She joined the state's Natural Resource Committee in 2021 before stepping down last week to pursue a Senate campaign.

"This election is about more than who raises the most money," Love said in statement. "We want to demonstrate to people that government can work when we elect a leader from the people, by the people, who puts the people first." Love joins a small crowd of Democratic candi-

dates, including businessman Nasser Beydoun and lawyer Zack Burns, who will contend with U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin in the primary. A third term representative in one of the country's most competitive districts, Slotkin, the most high-profile name in the race, raised \$3 million in the first month of her campaign after announcing in February.

If elected, Love would be Michigan's first black Senator. She is also from Detroit, a city without Black representation in Congress for the first time since the early 1950s following four-term U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence's retirement last year.

Longtime Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow shocked many in the state in January when she announced she would not seek a fifth term and would retire at the end of next year, leaving an open Senate seat in one of the country's premier battlegrounds. Stabenow has said she will not endorse in the Democratic primary.

Republicans Michael Hoover and Nikki Snyder, a State Board of Education member, are also running for the seat. Republicans have taken just one of Michigan's last 15 Senate races, winning an open seat in 1994. □



# Alcaraz stunned by Hungarian qualifier at Italian Open

By **ANDREW DAMPF**

AP Sports Writer

**ROME (AP)** — Carlos Alcaraz didn't see this one coming. How could he have?

About to reclaim the No. 1 ranking, Alcaraz was pretty much pushed off the court at the Italian Open by 135th-ranked Hungarian qualifier Fabian Marozsan 6-3, 7-6 (4) in the third round on Monday.

Alcaraz suffered his earliest defeat since October.

He'd won 30 of 32 matches this year and was on a 12-match winning streak on clay after consecutive titles in Barcelona and Madrid. He secured a return to the top spot next week by winning his opening match in Rome. But he was caught off guard by how Marozsan dictated with spectacular play all over the court, including drop shots that Alcaraz had no answer for. "I just didn't feel comfortable. He made me feel uncomfortable on court," Alcaraz said. "He was aggressive all the time. He was playing inside the baseline all the time. It was tough for me to get into the match,



**Fabian Marozsan returns the ball to Carlos Alcaraz at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Monday, May 15, 2023.**

into the rally. I made a lot of mistakes that I usually don't make too much." The result means Alcaraz will go into the French Open which starts in less than two weeks and where he will be the top seed coming off a dispiriting defeat. Making matters even more surprising was that this is the first time Marozsan is play-

ing in the main draw of an ATP tournament. "He surprise(d) me a lot. His level was really, really high," Alcaraz said. "I'm sure he's going to break the top 100 very, very soon." Marozsan posted his first victories over top-100 players in the first two rounds when he beat No. 67 Corentin Moutet and 32nd-

seeded Jiri Lehecka.

"Everything was perfect today: The crowd, the weather, the court," Marozsan said after stunning the packed stadium on Campo Centrale. "I just try to do something special or winning a few games or maybe a set or something like this, and I just beat the world No. 1

he's our best in the sport." Alcaraz led 4-1 in the tie-breaker but Marozsan won six straight points to close it out.

"It's amazing. I don't know what happened during the points," Marozsan said. "I just try to hit back every ball and try to do my best."

Late in the second set, Alcaraz tried firing himself up by yelling "Vamos" every time he won a significant point. But Marozsan just kept coming, unleashing an 82 mph (132 kph) backhand winner up the line to conclude one point and winning several close exchanges at the net.

By the end, Marozsan had twice as many winners as Alcaraz, 24 to 12, and far fewer unforced errors, 13 to 24. "I couldn't follow his level," Alcaraz said. "He was at the same level the whole match. That is very, very difficult. He deserves the win. If he plays at that level, he's going to surprise more than one (player)." Marozsan will next face Borna Coric, who continued his solid form on clay by beating Roberto Carballes Baena 7-6 (3), 6-1. □

Associated Press

# Philadelphia Inquirer hit by cyberattack causing disruption

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — The Philadelphia Inquirer says a weekend cyberattack caused the biggest disruption to its operations in 27 years and prevented it from publishing its Sunday print edition.

The attack was detected Saturday morning when employees found that the paper's content-management system wasn't working, the Inquirer reported on its website.

The paper "discovered anomalous activity on select computer systems and immediately took those systems off-line," Inquirer publisher Lisa Hughes said.

The cyberattack caused the largest disruption to the publication of Pennsylvania's largest news organization the company publishes The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Philadelphia Daily

News since a blizzard in January 1996, the company reported.

Weekend editor Diane Mastrull said Monday that the newspaper had been dealing with an "extraordinarily busy weekend," with three nights of Taylor Swift concerts, the Philadelphia 76ers playing a playoffs game 7 and mayoral candidates making their final pitches to voters.

"I'm amazed to say we got all of that coverage on our website in our electronic edition on Sunday and then in the papers today," Mastrull said, calling that an extraordinary feat by systems personnel and requiring patience from reporters and editors using workarounds to write and edit stories as well as being in "the awkward position" of having to report on the

paper itself.

On Sunday, subscribers were sent the early "bull-dog" edition of the paper that didn't include stories written Saturday, Mastrull said. On Monday, however, subscribers got "the full Monday paper on their doorstep," she said, adding that workers assume that will be the case Wednesday morning, "when people will be looking for election results." Classified advertisements, including death notices, will not appear until Wednesday, officials said.

"We asked questions and did not get many answers, and that has frustrated the staff, but I understand it's a very complex situation," she said, adding that employees and subscribers remain concerned about whether their personal

data may have been compromised.

And employees have been barred from working in the newspaper offices at least through Tuesday, with the company saying that was

necessary "because access to company internet servers has been disrupted," Mastrull said. Hughes said the company was looking into co-working arrangements for Tuesday. □



**A Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper vending machine stands in Philadelphia on Nov. 30, 2006.**

Associated Press



# Palestinian President Abbas urges U.N. to suspend Israel

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas urged the United Nations on Monday to suspend Israel's membership unless it implements resolutions establishing separate Jewish and Arab states and the return of Palestinian refugees.

Abbas spoke during the first official U.N. commemoration of the flight of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from what is now Israel following the U.N.'s partition of British-ruled Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states 75 years ago.

Israel's U.N. ambassador, Gilad Erdan, had sent letters to General Assembly ambassadors condemning the commemoration and urging them not to attend what he called an "abominable event" and a "blatant attempt to distort history." He said those who attended would be condoning antisemitism and giving a green light to Palestinians "to continue exploiting international organs to promote their libelous narrative."

Israel and the United States were among those that boycotted the commemoration of what is known as the Nakba, or catastrophe. In an hourlong emotion-charged speech, Abbas asked the world's nations why more than 1,000 resolutions adopted by U.N. bodies regarding the Palestinians had never been implemented. He held up a letter from Israel's foreign minister, Moshe Sharett, after resolutions were adopted in 1947 and 1948 promising to implement them and said: "Either they do respect these obligations, or they stop becoming a member."

The General Assembly, which had 57 member nations in 1947, approved the resolution dividing Palestine by a vote of 33-13 with 10 abstentions. The Jewish side accepted the U.N. partition plan and after the British mandate expired in 1948, Israel declared its indepen-



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas speaks during a conference to support Jerusalem at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, on Feb. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

dence. The Arabs rejected the plan and neighboring Arab countries launched a war against the Jewish state.

The Nakba commemorates the estimated 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were forced from their homes in 1948.

The fate of these refugees and their descendants estimated at over 5 million across the Middle East remains a major disputed issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel rejects demands for a mass return of refugees to long-lost homes, saying it would threaten the country's Jewish character.

Abbas specifically blamed Britain, as Palestine's ruler before the 1947 partition, and the United States, Israel's most important ally, for the flight of the Palestinians. He said the most important right Palestinians are demanding now is self-determination based on June 1967 borders. He reiterated that the Palestinians have agreed to accept 22% of the 1947 territory as part of a two-state solution to the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict, not the 44%

they were given in the partition.

Abbas said Palestinians are not against Jews, but "I am against those who occupy our land."

He said Israel should recognize and apologize for the Nakba and pay compensation to the refugees and for land it now occupies. And he said that if these root causes are not addressed, the Palestinians will continue to pursue legal action, especially at the International Criminal Court, which was greeted by loud applause from the large audience in a U.N. conference room.

Israel has remained defiant. "We will fight the 'Nakba' lie with full strength and we won't allow the Palestinians to continue to spread lies and distort history," Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said in a statement.

As the 75th anniversary approached, the now 193-member General Assembly approved a resolution last Nov. 30 by a vote of 90-30 with 47 abstentions requesting the U.N. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to

organize a high-level event on May 15 to commemorate the Nakba. The United States was among the countries that joined Israel in voting against the resolution.

Explaining why a U.N. commemoration took so long, Palestinian U.N. Ambassador Riyad Mansour told The Associated Press on Friday that the Palestinians have moved cautiously at the United Nations since the General Assembly raised their status in 2012 from a non-member observer to a non-member observer state.

U.N. recognition as a state enabled the Palestinians to join treaties, take cases against Israel's occupation to the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice, which is the U.N.'s highest tribunal, and in 2019 to chair the Group of 77, the U.N. coalition of 134 mainly developing nations and China, he said.

The Nakba commemoration comes as Israeli-Palestinian fighting has intensified and protests over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing

government and its plan to overhaul Israel's judiciary show no sign of abating. Israel's polarization and the Netanyahu government's extremist positions have also sparked growing international concern.

Mansour said Friday that Palestinian refugees "are being forcibly removed from their homes and forcibly transferred by Israel at an unprecedented rate," reminiscent of 1948.

In a speech to the U.N. Security Council on April 25, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Malki renewed his call for countries that haven't yet recognized the state of Palestine "to do so as a means to salvage the moribund two-state solution." He also urged countries to support the Palestinian request for full membership in the United Nations, which would demonstrate international support for a two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians lived side-by-side in peace.

To hurt Israel economically, Malki urged countries to ban products from Israeli settlements and trade with settlements, to "sanction those who collect funds for settlements and those who advocate for them and those who advance them," and to list settler organizations that carry out killings and burnings as "terrorist organizations."

And he urged the international community to take Israel to the International Court of Justice. The General Assembly asked the court in December to give its opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, a move denounced by Israel. □

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## Pacific Island leaders urge world to put aside differences in combating impact of climate change

By **JINTAMAS SAKSORN-CHAI**

**Associated Press**

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Pacific Island leaders criticized rich countries on Monday for not doing enough to control climate change despite being responsible for much of the problem, and for making money off of loans provided to vulnerable nations to mitigate the effects. Leaders and representatives from Pacific Island nations demanded at a U.N. climate change conference in Bangkok that the world make more effort to put aside differences in combating the environmental impact, especially as their countries emerge from the economic devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Mark Brown of the Cook Islands said the finance model for combating climate change giving out loans to reduce the impact is "not the way to go" for countries in his region with such small populations that produce "inconsequential amounts of carbon emissions" but suffer the most from the effects. He encouraged a shift toward grants or interest-free



**Palau President Strangle S. Whipps Jr. attends The 79th commission session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at U.N. regional office in Bangkok, Thailand, Monday, May 15, 2023.**

loans to help ease the financial burden on poorer countries.

"All we're doing is adding debt to countries that have come out of COVID with increased debt, and to me it is actually quite offensive that we would be required to borrow money to build resilience, and to borrow from the very countries that are causing climate

change," he told The Associated Press.

Brown said his country lost an estimated 41% of its GDP because of the pandemic, "a loss of a decade's worth of prosperity." He said he will give this message to leaders when he represents his tiny South Pacific nation with a population of about 17,000 at a summit later this week of the Group of Sev-

en leading industrialized nations in Japan, where he hopes to be able to speak on a more equal footing to the leaders than as "a grateful recipient" to "benevolent donors."

Palau President Surangel S. Whipps Jr. agreed that financing opportunities are "few and difficult," and criticized wealthy countries for failing to commit to pro-

vide the financial help they had promised, which he said represents only a tiny portion of their prioritized expenditures such as the military.

"We didn't cause the problem, but now they're going to make money off of us by giving us a loan so we can pay back with interest," he told The Associated Press. "So now you have to adapt, but we'll give you money and make money off of you by giving you that money to adapt. That doesn't make sense."

Whipps said Palau's economy relies heavily on tourism, which is greatly threatened by the impact of climate change. The country's economic security is also a major issue in Palau's negotiations with the U.S. on the "Compacts of Free Association," a broader agreement that will govern its relations with Washington for the next two decades. Those ties grant the U.S. unique military and other security rights in the islands in return for substantial aid. Whipps said the administration of President Joe Biden has promised approximately \$900 million over the 20-year period. □

**Associated Press**

## U.N. migration agency elects American as 1st woman director

By **JAMEY KEATEN**

**Associated Press**

**GENEVA (AP)** — Amy Pope of the United States elbowed aside her European boss Monday to land the top job at the International Organization for Migration, winning her bid to become the first woman to lead the U.N. migration agency.

Pope, 49, defeated IOM Director General Antonio Vitorino of Portugal, the European Union candidate, who swept into the post five years ago by trouncing a candidate put up by the Trump administration for a job that was long been held by Americans.

Vitorino's prospects for a

second term were clouded after Pope, with strong backing from the Biden administration, won the first round on a 98-67 vote. After a lunch break, word emerged that Vitorino had pulled out of the race.

His withdrawal paved the way for Pope to win by acclamation after member states decided to forgo what was suddenly a formality: the IOM rules requiring a two-thirds majority to win an election.

Pope and Vitorino shook hands and smiled as they arrived together for the announcement that she had won. She is expected to start her five-year term on

Oct. 1, the IOM said in a statement.

The face-off was unusual in that Pope was looking to unseat her boss in a contest between allies. The United States and Portugal are fellow NATO members.

"Ms. Pope's election reflects a broad endorsement by member states of her vision to keep people at the heart of IOM's mission, while implementing key governance and budget reforms to ensure IOM is prepared to meet the challenges it faces," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

Eight of the agency's 10 directors general since the

International Organization for Migration was founded

72 years ago have been American. □



**Amy Pope from the U.S. is pictured during the elections process of the director general position for the 'International Organization for Migration' (IOM) in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, May 15, 2023.**

**Associated Press**



# The surge of illegal vacation homes on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—While the surge of vacations on the island has brought with it new economic opportunities, it also brought a flourishing illegal market. Illegal vacation homes began to surge around the island. These are properties rented out to tourists without appropriate registration, local permit of adherence to health and security regulations.

What's attraction of quick-earned money, along with risks perceived as under detected, has tempted many home owners to partake in this illegal business. The lack of regulation and supervision in the early stages of this industry has nurtured the proliferation of illegal rentals on the island.

The surge of illegal vacation homes on Aruba has significant negative effects on the island.



## Economic Impact

Illegal vacation homes evade local taxes and regulation fees, which cause significant damage to the economy of Aruba. This lost entry could be used to improve local infrastructure, improve touristic services and finance other public projects.

## Competition and distortion within the market

Illegal rental homes that do not adhere to regulations and that do not pay license fees, could permit lower prices compared to the legal market. This unfair competition can cause damage to legitimate vacation rentals and hotels, causing distortion within

the market.

## Impact on local community

A surge of tourists within residential neighborhoods, fueled by the illegal vacation rentals, could disrupt local living. Noises, traffic and potential damage to community resources and facilities is a common prob-

lem, creating a fragile relationship between locals and tourists.

## Safety and experience of tourists

Often time, illegal renting does not follow standard security regulations, which could put the safety of tourists at risks. Additionally, service quality could not meet expectations, negatively affecting the experiences of tourists and the reputation of Aruba as a tourist destination.

This is why it is important for the government of Aruba to start attending to this illegal phenomenon that is circling around the island, to prevent the further growth of an illegitimate industry and the negative effects that this brings with it. □

Pictures are illustrative.

## Three Rivers Real Estate declares to be complying with all legal construction permits

(Oranjestad)—According to different articles published in the last few days by the local news outlet '24ora', Three Rivers Real Estate VBA has declared that the permits from DOW (Department of Public Works) for the construction of the Secrets Hotel in Baby Beach are legal.

The real estate agency took note of the accusations that they do not respect the order of judicial sentencing, and considered them very serious and completely unfounded. Through a press release on May 11th, they expressed that they do indeed comply with legal terms required for the construction permit, though this process did take a long time.

"Nor is it true that the court has annulled our license. There were a lot of judicial cases against the construction permits obtained by Three Rivers, who has



always respected court sentencing, including the last."

They have assured that they are currently evaluating their legal options and are going to continue management in compliance with Aruban law and the sentencing of the Court of Administrations Lar.

"Three Rivers is sorry to see

the company painted as a foreign developer that does not respect or comply with local laws and judge sentences; that can't be further from the truth. Three Rivers hope to finalize this hotel project to contribute to the economy of Aruba, specifically that of San Nicolas," the press release read.

For more than a week, the Secrets Baby Beach Ho-

tel was a hot topic in the news due to a press release that the real estate agency has published, in which indicates that a group of inhabitants from Sero Colorado have pointed out that the by law, the Three Rivers project has a suspended license, and is thus not authorized to continue work on the hotel. Last Friday, members of the San Nicolas Business

Association (SNBA) have shared their perspective on the matter, in which they assured that the hotel that must be open by November next year, is experiencing an unfair back lash from the public, while other commercial construction projects in the west side area of the island are not given the same type of negative attention. □



## World Migratory Bird Day 2023



**Lora (Yellow Shouldered Amazon)**

**Oranjestad - World Migratory Bird Day is a day that creates awareness about the importance of preserving migratory birds and their habitats. World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated twice a year, on May 13 and October 14.**

This year's theme is water. Since migratory birds travel enormous distances, water is essential to their journey. The quality and quantity of available water is under constant threat worldwide. That is why many world organizations jointly set up strategic campaigns to draw attention to World Migratory Bird Day.

This collaboration should lead to greater awareness of migratory birds and their needs. The hope is that more international organizations will join, not only for the good of the birds but also for their habitats.

The Directorate of Nature and Environment (DNM) recognizes the importance of our bays and wetlands for the migratory birds that need to rest, eat and breed. The condition of the habitat must be favorable for the birds. Migratory birds depend on various water sources such as ocean water, lagoons, rivers, dams, wetlands, and bays. These locations have trees that serve as food and breeding grounds for the birds and shelter. These areas are essential for the birds to rest after or before the long journey.

Unfortunately, the aquatic habitat and ecosystem are under constant threat from humans. In Aruba, this is no exception, as the high demand for land for housing and the severe drought threatens the ideal conditions for these birds. The main habitat for birds in Aruba is the Bubali Plas,

which is full of spectacular birds.

The DNM urges the community to be careful when



**Prikichi (Brown Throated Parakeet)**



**Blenchi Dornasol (Ruby Topaz Hummingbird)**

dealing with wild local and migratory birds. The "National Decree on Protected Flora and Fauna" is available at [dnmaruba.org](http://dnmaruba.org) and contains the list of protected birds in Aruba.

In this list you will find birds like the Blue Tails emerald, the Ruby Topaz Hummingbird, Peregrine Falcon, the Yellow Shouldered Amazon, the national bird Brown-Throated Parakeet and the national symbol the Burrowing Owl. □



**: Blenchi (Blue Tails Emerald)**



**Shoco (Burrowing Owl)**

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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized Distinguished and Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassadors with the respective certificate as a token of appreciation.

The honoring certification program is granted to ambassadors, to recognize, the loyalty, friendships, and visits to Aruba. For consecutively choosing Aruba as their preferred vacation destination each year. The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the number of consecutive years visiting the island of Aruba.

### Honoring Levels:

Distinguished Ambassadors: 10+ years  
Goodwill Ambassadors: 20+ years  
Emerald Ambassadors: 35+ years

### Honorees were:

Distinguished Ambassadors 10+ years:  
Timo Sven Schubert residents of Hessen, Germany (have been visiting Aruba for 10 years consecutively).

### Goodwill Ambassadors 20+ years:

Kenneth & Doreen Holt residents of Connecticut, United States (have been visiting Aruba for 30 years

consecutively).

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa bestowed the certification of the Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were presented with the official certificate, and with memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the Ambassadors for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many years. We are so thankful to have had such wonderful Ambassadors as our visitors after all these years! Aruba is unquestionably their home away from home!

According to Honorees these are the top reasons for returning to Aruba:

Mr. Timo Schubert reasons:  
Sun, Sand, Sea  
Out of Hurricane Belt  
Friendliness  
Safety  
Sophisticated Infrastructure

Mr. Kenneth Holt & Doreen Holt reasons:

Weather  
People  
Beach  
Great Restaurants  
Love Everything About Aruba



**beauty  
& THE  
BEACH**

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Wally and Kathy from Boston**. This is their 20th time visiting the island and they said it's paradise. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

*This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.*



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## RCC Aruba Presents 2nd Edition of Spectacular Live Acrobatic Dance Show at the Paseo Herencia Ballroom

ORANJESTAD - Rhythm Circus Company Aruba (RCC Aruba) is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated 2nd edition of their breathtaking live acrobatic dance show, taking place every Wednesday and Friday at 7pm in the Paseo Herencia Ballroom.

Building on their exceptional performance on America's Got Talent, RCC Aruba is ready to captivate audiences once again with their awe-inspiring talent and mesmerizing routines. Featuring a fusion of acro-



batics, dance, and stunning choreography, RCC Aruba promises an unforgettable experience that will leave spectators amazed and enthralled. The performers will showcase their incredible skills, pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the realm of live entertainment. Don't miss your chance to witness the artistry and athleticism of RCC Aruba at Paseo Herencia. Book your tickets now and prepare to be amazed by this extraordinary showcase of talent. □

## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

**NOORD** - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own



pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decora-

tion, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of

beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea

glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □





## Exchange of poetry and literature: the main goal of the poets invited to the Aruba International Poetry Encounter

(Oranjestad)—The Aruba International Poetry Encounter began last Tuesday, May 9th; a project organized by Maria Silva-Hart from the Basha Foundation, along with Aruban-Argentine poet, Arturo Desimone, and which took place for the first time in Aruba. The event ends on May 18th and is filled with all sorts of activities, meetings, presentation and workshops on the art of poetry and literature.

Our reporter had the opportunity to sit down with some of the poets invited to this meeting to talk about their careers, their history within the poetry world and their expectations for this event.

America Merino, poet and translator from Viña del Mar in Chile, shared that she translates poetry pieces from Italian to Spanish. She studied translation in Florence, Italy, and from there she kept reading, learning and translating.

From a young age, Merino always liked poetry. In elementary school, she always looked forward to the poetry sessions and the end of the year, but it wasn't until after she left school and went on to university that she took poetry seriously and tried it professionally.

"When I joined the foundation of Pablo Nerudo, I took a workshop with the director. From there, I started developing and perfecting my skills little by little in the field of poetry. I got recommended by poets and



writers from Chile, as well as from other countries, and through this I learned even faster," she stated.

In terms of her stay in Aruba—her first time on the island, Merino said that she is enthralled by the beauty of the island: "It really is a happy island, it's so beautiful. I don't think there anything like this back in Chile and everything surprises me; from the intense bright color of the sky to the super friendly people and the great food. I'm always meeting a lot of poets from around the world."

In terms of her expectations of this event and what she hopes to get out of it, she remarked that she hopes she could share poetry, have the space to share her work as well as others' work, especially those she translated: "I want to bring poetry from Chile here,"



she expressed.

Marta Jazming Garcia is an artist from Puerto Rico who performed in different areas in the world of poetry and literature. Garcia shared that she mainly writes poetry, but she is also an academic in literature.

She is also an illustrator. She explained that she will soon be releasing her first illustration book: "I'd say my first passion was painting, but I like art in general," she said.

She further explained how she always liked painting; that was her forte, and then followed writing. Her mom made handmade

art crafts from home, and she also had a lot of book to read: "despite our financial struggle, the element of art was never missing at home. That was what kept fueling my passion," she expressed.

In terms of her expectations of this event, Garcia remarked that this event gave her confidence and opened her eyes to the art of poetry writing and how this really must be shared and discussed amongst artists.

"To be completely honest, writing is a very solitary activity, and I normally don't share in groups something that I feel is very personal to

me. This event reminds you that writing is a social process, that you even have a duty to share your work. And really, I came to learn more," she said.

Wilson Alves Bezerras is a poet, teacher and translator from Brazil, who during the last 20 years, has dedicated himself to education and the translation of Hispano-American literature in Brazil. He has a poetry novel and it's his first time on Aruba.

"Aruba is fascinating because of its linguistics; you see traces of Portuguese, which is my mother tongue. Papiamentu is a fascinating language with traces of Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and English, and for us from all the way in Brazil, it's very interesting. The island is also very beautiful, the people are really friendly and I'm really enjoying my time here," he expressed.

Alves-Bezerras shared that he loved children's stories from a young age and the idea that you can create a story with language and poetry. He has been an avid reader from childhood; his father owned a newspaper kiosk and he would learn words from playing the puzzles that were in these papers.

"University was nothing else than a way to maintain my childhood dreams and my relationship with literature and poetry," he added.

In terms of his expectations of the event, he explained that he finds the event fascinating, because this way he can exchange poetry with Caribbean and Latin-American poets, which is one of the only ways to keep poetry alive, he expressed.

"Unfortunately, poetry circulates poorly within the continent and meeting other poets is a singular possibility for us to make our work known, translated and edited," he finalized. □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 45 Shoulder  
1 Victimized, muscles, with "on" for short

6 Curving paths

10 Metal fastener

11 Billies and nannies

13 Like lambs

14 Advice

15 Tennis court divider

16 Touch lightly

18 Lupino of films

19 Top chess player

22 Have lunch

23 Single

24 Put into boxes

27 Young stallions

28 Like the desert

29 Gallery fill

30 Banquet leader

35 Total

36 Orange tuber

37 Bullfight cry

38 Deplete

40 Noggins

42 Basil-based sauce

43 Precise

44 Letters after cees

## DOWN

1 Plug part

2 Rafting spot

3 Musical set in

4 Longing

5 Mom's new hubby

6 Heart-burn

7 Harry's friend

8 Senate setting

9 Class member

12 Rude looks

17 Quantity: Abbr.

20 Must have

21 Casino machines

24 Burger topper

25 Awakened

26 Cat with colorful points

27 Like one-room apartments

29 Doc's org.

31 Printing goofs

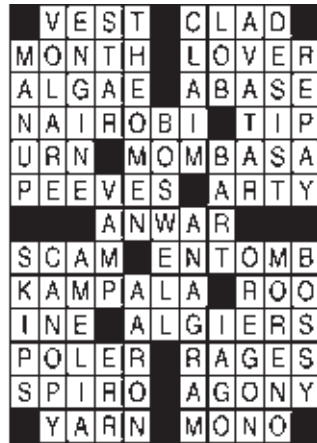
32 Sum

33 Put in office

34 Work breaks

39 Western Indian

41 Chopping tool



## Saturday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

## 5-15 CRYPTOQUOTE

M FRPJIG UPBT CF GPZ M

FRMBBPUL PGKI CZ EHCIF

PVZ QPV KMG'Z KMZKO CZ

— BVFFCMG RBPNI BD

Saturday's Cryptoquote: YOU ARE THE STORYTELLER OF YOUR OWN LIFE, AND YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN LEGEND, OR NOT. — ISABEL ALLENDE

# Americans are holding on to their vehicles longer than ever

By TOM KRISHER  
AP Auto Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) —

With new and used cars still painfully expensive, Ryan Holdsworth says he plans to keep his 9-year-old Chevy Cruze for at least four more years. Limiting his car payments and his overall debt is a bigger priority for him than having a new vehicle. A 35-year-old grocery store worker from Grand Rapids, Michigan, Holdsworth would probably be in the market for a vehicle within a few years if not for the high cost. For now, it's out of the question.

"You're not going to get one for a price you can afford," he said.

Holdsworth has plenty of company. Americans are keeping their cars longer than ever. The average age of a passenger vehicle on the road hit a record 12.5 years this year, according to data gathered by S&P Global Mobility. Sedans like Holdsworth's are even older, on average 13.6 years.

Blame it mainly on the pandemic, which in 2020 triggered a global shortage of automotive computer chips, the vital component that runs everything from radios to gas pedals to transmissions. The shortage drastically slowed global assembly lines, making new vehicles scarce on dealer lots just when consumers were increasingly eager to buy.

Prices reached record highs. And though they've eased somewhat, the cost of a vehicle still feels punishingly expensive to many Americans, especially when coupled with now much-higher loan rates.



**Mechanic Jon Guthrie inspects the underside of a 2014 Honda Ridgeline pickup truck at Japanese Auto Professional Service in Ann Arbor, Michigan.**

Associated Press

Since the pandemic struck three years ago, the average new vehicle has rocketed 24% to nearly \$48,000 as of April, according to Edmunds.com. Typical loan rates on new-car purchases have ballooned to 7%, a consequence of the Federal Reserve's aggressive streak of interest rate hikes to fight inflation.

It's all pushed the national average monthly auto loan payment to \$729 prohibitively high for many. Experts say a family earning the median U.S. household income can no longer afford the average new car payment and still cover such necessities as housing, food and utilities. Used vehicle prices, on average, have surged even more since the pandemic hit up 40%, to nearly \$29,000. With an average loan rate having reached 11%, the typical monthly used-vehicle payment is now \$563.

Faced with deciding between making a jumbo payment and keeping their existing vehicles, more

owners are choosing to stick with what they have, even if it means spending more on repairs and maintenance. Auto mechanics have been struck by the rising ages and mileages of vehicles that now arrive at the shop in numbers they'd never seen before.

"You see cars all the time in here with 250,000, 300,000 miles," said Jay Nuber, owner of Japanese Auto Professional Service, a repair garage near downtown Ann Arbor, Michigan. "They haven't been really having major work or anything. They've just been doing the (routine) service." It doesn't mean that most owners of older vehicles are necessarily stuck with constant repair bills.

One reason people can hold their vehicles for increasingly long periods is that auto manufacturing has improved over time. Engines run longer. Bodies don't rust as quickly. Components last longer. Yet the cost of buying either a new or used vehicle is leaving more people with essentially no choice but to keep the one they have. □

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## Review: In 'Still,' Michael J. Fox movingly tells his story

By **JAKE COYLE**  
AP Film Writer

I've always liked Michael J. Fox and always will. I suspect most people feel the same way.

That's surely partly because, as Marty McFly in "Back to the Future" and Alex P. Keaton in "Family Ties," Fox was a fixture of so many childhoods. But there's also a way that Fox remains forever boyish a charming pipsqueak, a plucky kid with a touch less confidence than he lets on. His sheer geniality and universal appeal has remained indomitable, even in the face of a degenerative brain disorder.

"I'm a cockroach," Fox says in Davis Guggenheim's glossy, entertaining and often affecting documentary, "Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie."

In Guggenheim's film, Fox recounts his life, career and arduous battle with Parkinson's disease, with which he was diagnosed at age 29. The documentary, debuting Friday on Apple TV+, does this through candid on-camera interviews with Fox along with narration read by the actor.



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Michael J. Fox in a scene from the documentary "Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie."

And while there's footage here of home movies, much of Fox's life story unspools on screen. Along with bits of reenactment, Guggenheim uses clips of Fox's film and TV series to illustrate his off-screen life. And this is surprisingly effective, in part because Fox's screen presence has always been so genuine. Actors aren't the parts they

play but I think they always exude something innate about themselves. And more than that, a surprising amount of Fox's life has really happened in front of cameras. He met his wife, Tracy Pollan, on "Family Ties"; she played a love interest. His first symptoms came during the filming of "Doc Hollywood." And for years after Fox's diagnosis,

he masked his increasing tics on "Spin City" by fidgeting with props. But dramatizing Fox's life like this can also feel like a shallow gimmick. Instead, the most memorable images in "Still" are those of a present-day Fox in frame, speaking straight into the camera. The effects of Parkinson's are visible but so is the jaunty, self-deprecating actor

we've always known. After the continual musing with his still-handsome head of curls, Fox begs the primpers to stop. "At at certain point, it is what it is," he says.

Again, it's hard to shake the feeling that the Fox we see on screen is the real him.

"Still" frames Fox's story, maybe a little too neatly, as an arc from headlong movement to stillness. Fox's rags-to-riches rise in Hollywood was meteoric and head-spinning. The Alberta-born actor landed "Family Ties" while penniless and negotiated from the payphone of a Pioneer Chicken. From there on, it was movie deals, women and Ferraris. The diagnosis knocked Fox sideways. The doctor, he recounts, laid out the odds: "You lose this game." But after a period of heavy drinking, Fox says the disorder, despite sending tremors through his body, made him more present, stiller. Pollan and their children are surely a big reason for that. Fox is never so endearing as when he's extolling the level-headedness of his wife: "I could be the King of England and she would be her." □

Associated Press

## Jonas Brothers' 'The Album' is a summer hit for incurable romantics

By **MARTINA REBECCA INCHINGOLO**  
The Associated Press

If, like many of us, you got burned trying to get tickets to the Jonas Brothers recent tour, their latest work "The Album" is a sweet consolation to keep your mind off it.

The Jonas Brothers are all about love in their latest project. Married with kids, every lyric hides a nudge to their homes. And while their music is focused on that familiar tender feeling, the experimentation into new genres makes it more special and fresh.

From the get-go with the track "Miracle" we are introduced by a sexy groove with show stopping high-pitched verses, while keeping that carefree vibe they are known for.

Even romantic ballads gain extra spice, such as "Vacation Eyes," a track with great potential to be a first dance tune at weddings for the new generation. "I got vacation eyes, I'm gonna have them for the rest of my life." The upbeat drums and the use of a chromatic harmonica elevate the song, making it more engaging and amusing a jollification of your classic, slow love track.

The trio of Nick, Joe and Kevin released their single "Wings," with "The White Lotus" actress and super fan Haley Lu Richardson leading in a music video that resembles a "get ready with me" tutorial from heaven. Followed by their second early released single "Waffle House," which focuses on the brothers' competi-

tive dynamic that every sibling knows way too well. "Headstrong father and a determined mother. Oh, that's why some nights we try to kill each other."

In the lyrics the brothers reveal that no matter what happens, everything will be figured out when we share a special ordinary moment with our loved ones. "Deep conversations at the waffle house," they sing in the chorus.

On the topic of love and family, there's an impossible to miss heartfelt acoustic melody about fatherhood and their baby girls, titled "Little Bird."

The brothers, who broke hearts all over the world as they said, 'I do,' reflect about that bittersweet moment in the future when they will not be their girls'

No. 1 guy anymore. "Cause I know if I'm doing my job correct/ Nights like these will happen less/ So please

just keep me in your heart/ When you fly into somebody else's arms." □



This cover image released by Republic Records shows "The Album" by the Jonas Brothers.

Associated Press



# Alcaraz stunned by Hungarian qualifier at Italian Open

By **ANDREW DAMPF**  
AP Sports Writer

**ROME (AP)** — Carlos Alcaraz didn't see this one coming. How could he have?

About to reclaim the No. 1 ranking, Alcaraz was pretty much pushed off the court at the Italian Open by 135th-ranked Hungarian qualifier Fabian Marozsan 6-3, 7-6 (4) in the third round on Monday.

Alcaraz suffered his earliest defeat since October.

He'd won 30 of 32 matches this year and was on a 12-match winning streak on clay after consecutive titles in Barcelona and Madrid. He secured a return to the top spot next week by winning his opening match in Rome. But he was caught off guard by how Marozsan dictated with spectacular play all over the court, including drop shots that Alcaraz had no answer for.

"I just didn't feel comfortable. He made me feel uncomfortable on court," Alcaraz said. "He was aggressive all the time. He was playing inside the baseline all the time. It was tough for me to get into the match, into the rally. I made a lot of mistakes that I usually don't make too much."



**Fabian Marozsan returns the ball to Carlos Alcaraz at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Monday, May 15, 2023.**

The result means Alcaraz will go into the French Open which starts in less than two weeks and where he will be the top seed coming off a dispiriting defeat.

Making matters even more surprising was that this is the first time Marozsan is playing in the main draw of an ATP tournament.

"He surprise(d) me a lot. His level was really, really high," Alcaraz said. "I'm sure he's going to break the top 100

very, very soon."

Marozsan posted his first victories over top-100 players in the first two rounds when he beat No. 67 Corentin Moutet and 32nd-seeded Jiri Lehecka.

"Everything was perfect today: The crowd, the weather, the court," Marozsan said after stunning the packed stadium on Campo Centrale.

"I just try to do something special or winning a few

games or maybe a set or something like this, and I just beat the world No. 1 he's our best in the sport." Alcaraz led 4-1 in the tiebreaker but Marozsan won six straight points to close it out.

"It's amazing. I don't know what happened during the points," Marozsan said. "I just try to hit back every ball and try to do my best."

Late in the second set, Alcaraz tried firing himself up

by yelling "Vamos" every time he won a significant point. But Marozsan just kept coming, unleashing an 82 mph (132 kph) backhand winner up the line to conclude one point and winning several close exchanges at the net.

By the end, Marozsan had twice as many winners as Alcaraz, 24 to 12, and far fewer unforced errors, 13 to 24.

"I couldn't follow his level," Alcaraz said. "He was at the same level the whole match. That is very, very difficult. He deserves the win. If he plays at that level, he's going to surprise more than one (player)."

Marozsan will next face Borna Coric, who continued his solid form on clay by beating Roberto Carballes Baena 7-6 (3), 6-1. At the Madrid Open last week, Coric reached the semifinals before losing to Alcaraz.

Also, Monte Carlo Masters champion Andrey Rublev defeated Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 7-6 (8), 6-3 and will next play German qualifier Yannick Hanfmann, who beat former French Open semifinalist Marco Cecchinato 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. □

# 2-time world champion Doyle Brunson, called the Godfather of Poker, dies at 89

By **MARK ANDERSON**  
AP Sports Writer

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Doyle Brunson, one of the most influential poker players of all time and a two-time world champion, died Sunday, according to his agent. Brunson was 89.

Brian Balsbaugh, Brunson's agent, posted a statement on Twitter from the family.

"It is with a heavy heart we announce the passing of our father, Doyle Brunson," the statement read. "He was a beloved Christian man, husband, father and grandfather. We'll have more to say over the coming days as we honor his legacy. Please keep Doyle

and our family in your prayers. May he rest in peace."

Brunson, called the Godfather of Poker and also known as "Texas Dolly," won 10 World Series of Poker tournaments second only to Phil Hellmuth's 16. He also captured world championships in 1976 and 1977 and was inducted into the Poker Hall of Fame in 1988.

He wrote a book called "Super System" in 1979, which was one of the first books to delve into poker strategy and created a lasting impact that helped bring many others to the game.

Five-time WSOP winner Scotty Nguyen tweeted that he "can't believe this day has come - you will always be held high in our hearts, the man, the myth, the legend & THE GODFATHER of poker baby! Mr Brunson, you made poker what it is baby! thank you for what you give to all of us baby! RIP Mr Doyle Brunson **THE GODFATHER OF POKER.**"

His influence carried beyond poker.

"This one is a heartbreaker," actor James Woods tweeted. "Doyle Brunson, the greatest poker player who ever lived, has cashed in his chips.

"Doyle was so kind and helpful to me. He was gracious to my late dear brother

and every friend I introduced him to. A gentleman and a genuine legend." □



**Doyle Brunson is pictured prior to play at the final table of the World Series of Poker on Nov. 8, 2011, in Las Vegas.**

Associated Press



# MLB's new pitch clock may be leading to more blown saves

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The pitch clock has sped up baseball as hoped and it might be leading to more exciting endings, too.

A quarter of the way through Major League Baseball's first season with the pitch timer, relief pitchers seem to be bearing the most stress from it, with save conversions dropping to 61.4% from 67.8% at a similar point last season.

The save percentage is near the bottom range of the past decade, which averaged 65.1%, MLB said Monday. The high was 70% in 2015 and the low 61% in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

"Whenever relievers are coming in, it's mostly a stressful situation," said Toronto Blue Jays closer Jordan Romano, whose time between pitches dropped from 14.8 seconds from 20.5 last season. "It was nice before when you did have those extra few seconds."

"Now you've just got to get your thoughts together and go," the 2022 All-Star added. "I haven't noticed it too much but yeah, I guess in the times I've struggled, a couple extra seconds would have been nice."

The average time of nine-inning games fell to 2 hours, 37 minutes from 3:05. That



The pitch clock is visible as Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Dean Kremer winds up to deliver during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, April 24, 2023, in Baltimore, Md.

Associated Press

is on track to be the fastest since 1984 and would result in an everyday player being on the field about 80 fewer hours this season.

Batting average is up 14 percentage points for left-handed hitters and nine percentage points overall. Scoring has increased 8% and stolen bases are up 40%. The clock has caused an average of 0.72 violations per game.

Just over a quarter of the season had been played through Sunday, 610 of 2,430 scheduled games. There had been 307 saves

in 500 save chances a 10-year-high in opportunities.

Pitchers have 15 seconds to deliver a pitch with the bases empty and 20 seconds with runners on base, with a limit of two disengagements from the rubber per plate appearance. "I think back-end relievers, guys that have closed in the past, I think that's been the biggest adjustment for them, just because they can't reset," Baltimore manager Brandon Hyde said. "There's so much adrenaline, the moment's

so big at that point."

Starters have been impacted, too. Lucas Giolito of the Chicago White Sox has cut his time between pitches to 16.4 seconds from 20.7.

"It's been useful for just like developing rhythm, not letting myself think too much and take too much time," he said. "It's like you've got to get the ball back and get it going and fire it. You can't be overthinking."

Other rules added for this season also seem to be having intended results, including a limit on infield shifts that requires two in-

fielders on either side of second base and within the outer boundary of the infield, as well as an increase in the size of bases to 18-inch squares from 15-by-15.

The big league batting average of .247 was up from .236 at this point last season, when final average was .243. Offense usually increases in warmer summer months, and last year's first month was plagued by unusually cold and wet weather in a significant number of cities.

Left-handed batting average is up 14 points to .245, and there are more runs per game (9.1 from 8.4) and stolen bases per game (1.4 from 1.0).

The stolen base success rate of 78.4% was the highest on record, up from 74.1% at a similar point last year. "Pace of play, pro. Dislike everything that leads to more stolen bases, hate that," said Cleveland pitcher Shane Bieber, the 2020 AL Cy Young Award winner. "For myself, obviously, but for catchers, as well, it sucks. People look at the stolen base rate and go directly to catchers, but there's so much more that goes into it."

Of 437 timer violations, 287 were called on pitchers (65.7%), 126 on batters (28.8%) and five on catchers (1.1%). □

## Damar Hamlin honored with PFWA Halas Award



Buffalo Bills' Damar Hamlin speaks in front of University of Cincinnati Medical Center staff during the NFL Honors award show ahead of the Super Bowl 57 football game, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin, who is working on his return to the field after having gone into cardiac arrest during a game in January, has been selected as the winner of the 2023 George Halas Award. The Professional Football Writers of America on Monday announced the 55th winner of the award, which is given to an NFL player, coach or staff member who overcomes adversity to succeed.

Hamlin went into cardiac arrest during a nationally

televised game on Jan. 2 after making a tackle on a Cincinnati Bengals receiver. He got up but collapsed and had to be resuscitated on the field. The 24-year-old player was taken to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in critical condition and spent a week there before being flown to Buffalo for further treatment. He was released Jan. 11.

He said last month that his doctors have concluded that a hit to the chest caused his heart to stop. The rare condition called

commotio cordis occurs when a severe blow to the chest causes the heart to quiver and stop pumping blood efficiently, leading to sudden cardiac arrest.

Hamlin has been cleared to resume playing and took part in the Bills' voluntary workout program last month.

The other Halas finalists were Giants running back Saquon Barkley, 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey, Commanders running back Brian Robinson Jr. and Seahawks quarterback Geno Smith. □